GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3748
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Fire Safety Measures
Agrawal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of fire accidents are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such cases reported, persons died/injured during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether all schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, housing societies are adhering to all guidelines of fire safety and having all the safety equipment necessary to take immediate corrective steps during fire incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure implementation of prescribed guidelines of fire safety by all institutions in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): The Fire Services have been included as a Municipal Function in the XIIth Schedule of the Constitution of India Article 243 (W). As such, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to ensure safety of life and property of the citizens in the area of their jurisdiction. The Directorate General (Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards), Ministry of Home Affairs does not collect and maintain data of the Fire Incidents occurred in the States. According to the report published by the National Crime Record Bureau for the years 2013 and 2014, there is a 12% decline in accidental deaths due to fire and related accidents. In 2013 and 2014, the total numbers of deaths reported were 22177 and 19513 respectively.
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The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted Standing Fire Advisory Council which meets time to time to examine the problems of Fire Services in the country and recommend suitable measures to upgrade the Standards of Fire Services including special equipment for firefighting and rescue in schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, housing societies. Standing Fire Advisory Council also recommended to implement fire safety provisions prescribed in the National Building Code of India.

The National Building Code of India covers the detailed guidelines for construction, maintenance and fire safety of structures including schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, housing societies. The National Building Code of India is published by Bureau of Indian Standards and it is a recommendatory document. Guidelines were issued to the States to incorporate the recommendations of National Building Code into their local building bye-laws for fire and life safety. The implementation and enforcement of these Standard Codes and guidelines is purely the responsibility of State Governments.

The National Disaster Management Authority has also issued guidelines during April, 2012 with the objective of standardizing scaling/ type of equipment and training of man power to modernize and improve fire fighting capabilities in the country

The Directorate General (Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards) issued advisories to the State Governments to prevent the recurrence of fire accidents like Mumbai Mantralaya, AMRI hospitals, Kolkata etc.
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